

## How can I get the Advance EITC?

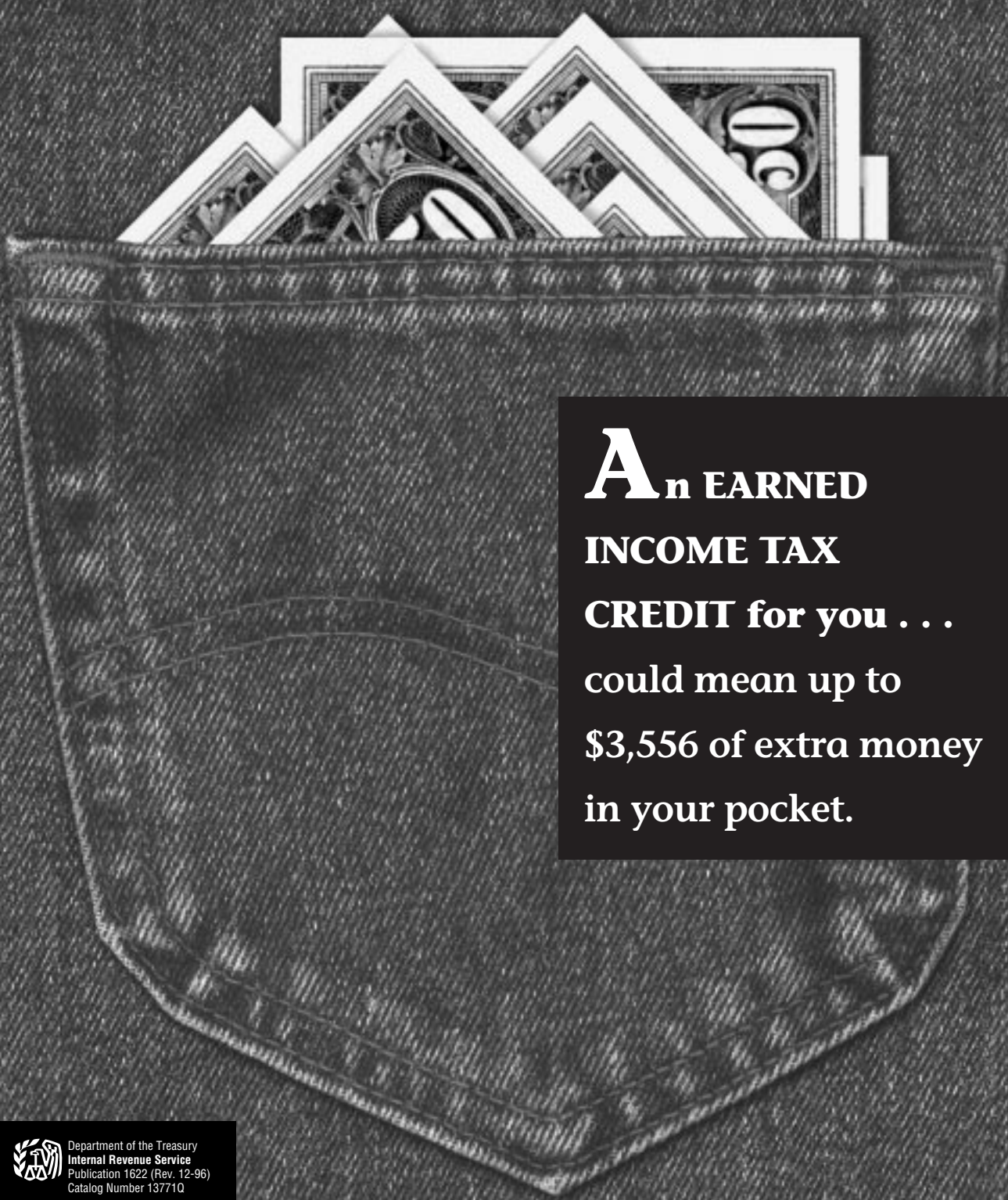
If you qualify for the EITC and have at least one qualifying child, complete Form W-5, *Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate*, and give it to your employer. You will then start to receive Advance EITC payments in each paycheck.

Sometimes your income or family situation changes. For example, a salary increase received after you applied for the Advance EITC could put you over the income amount that earlier qualified you for the EITC. If this happens, you have to fill out a new Form W-5 and give it to your employer to stop the advance payment. When you file your next tax return, you may have to give advanced money, that you no longer qualify for, back.

If you receive advance EITC payments, you must file a tax return. Your return shows the IRS the payments you received and at the same time allows you to apply for any extra credit that you deserve.



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**A<sub>n</sub> EARNED  
INCOME TAX  
CREDIT for you . . .  
could mean up to  
\$3,556 of extra money  
in your pocket.**

**The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is for some workers who earn less than \$28,495. On your tax return, the credit is subtracted from the amount of tax you owe, so you pay less tax. Even if you do not owe any tax, you could get a refund.**

## **What are the most common qualifications for the EITC?**

- You must have earned income from being employed or from being self-employed.
- You cannot file a married-filing-separate return.
- You cannot be a qualifying child for another filer.
- When two people filing individual tax returns qualify to claim the EITC because they have the same qualifying child, the person with the higher modified adjusted gross income has the right to claim the EITC.
- You, your spouse, and qualifying child must have a social security number issued by the Social Security Administration.

**NOTE:** Qualifying children are sons, daughters, adopted children, grandchildren, stepchildren or foster children

- 18 years of age or under,
- 23 years of age or under and a full-time student, or
- any age if partially or totally disabled.

The qualifying child does not have to be a dependent. You must provide a correct and valid social security number for any child born before 12/1/96.

- If you have at least one qualifying child:
  - the child must live with you for more than half the year (a whole year for a foster child) in the United States, and
  - you must earn less than \$25,078.
- If you have two or more qualifying children:
  - you must earn less than \$28,495.
- If you don't have qualifying children:
  - you must earn less than \$9,500,
  - be age 25 to 64, and
  - you cannot be another person's dependent.
- U.S. military personnel on extended active duty outside the U.S. may claim this tax credit.
- Non-resident aliens may generally claim the EITC if they are married to a U.S. citizen or resident, file a joint return, have a social security number, and choose to be treated as a resident for the entire tax year. See Publication 596 for more details.
- Income that prisoners earn while inmates at a penal institution does not qualify for the credit.

## **How much is the EITC?**

The amount of credit you can receive is based on how much money you earn and how many qualifying children you have.

- Taxpayers who have qualifying children and earn between \$6,350 and \$11,650 could get the maximum credit amount worth up to:
  - \$2,152 if you have one qualifying child,
  - \$3,556 if you have two or more qualifying children.
- People who have no qualifying children and earn between \$4,200 and \$5,300 could get the maximum credit amount worth up to \$323.

## **When can I get the EITC?**

You can get the credit all at once when you file Forms 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. If you have a qualifying child, you must attach Schedule EIC. Always use correct social security numbers when filling out tax forms and schedules.

or

You can get payments throughout the year in your paycheck by choosing the Advance EITC. You **must** have a qualifying child to get the Advance EITC payments. If your only income is from self-employment, you cannot get the Advance EITC.

## **Where can I get more information?**

- Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*, explains all the rules to qualify for and claim the EITC and Advance EITC payments. This publication can be downloaded from the Internet through **World Wide Web**—<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>. Or, you can order free forms and publications through the IRS at 1-800-829-3676.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are open from January 1 through April 15 for free one-on-one tax help. IRS volunteers can help you complete your tax return. For the location of a VITA site, or to ask an IRS tax assistant a question, call 1-800-829-1040.
- Some areas also offer a state EITC. For information on that, contact your state tax department.

